

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING CARL BOYETT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl Boyett, who was honored as Citizen of the Year by American Legion Post 74 during a Veterans Day ceremony in Modesto, California on November 11, 2011.

This special event is a celebration to honor local citizens and our Nation's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good, and the residents of the local area can join hands in this common purpose of gratitude and remembrance.

A resident of Modesto, Carl Boyett won an appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1963, and obtained the unique experience of marching with the honors company at the late President John F. Kennedy's funeral service.

Mr. Boyett joined the United States Army in 1967, where he displayed the utmost bravery during his 12 months of duty in Vietnam. He served valiantly during the Tet Offensive, and he returned to civilian life in 1970 after advancing to the rank of E-5.

Earning a Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University, Carl Boyett has provided masterful leadership and results-oriented vision as Chief Executive Officer of Boyett Petroleum since 1970 and as President of the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America in Washington, D.C.

Renowned for his generosity of spirit and genuine capacity to share his time and talents with other, Carl Boyett has participated in numerous enterprises with evidence of lasting contributions to the community. He's board chairman for the Gallo Center for the Arts and is a trustee for the California State University Stanislaus Foundation. He's also been a past president of the Stanislaus County Credit Union Bureau Foundation, the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, the Stanislaus Presidents Club, the Credit Bureau of Stanislaus County, Modesto Sunrise Rotary and Modesto Jaycees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Carl Boyett for the significant contributions he has made to the people of the local community and for his honorable and faithful service to the United States of America and the State of California.

COMMENDING REPEAL OF ANTI-PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES LEGISLATION BY OHIO VOTERS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the voters of Ohio for stand-

ing up for working people in their state and across the country. On Tuesday, November 8, Ohio voters overwhelmingly rejected another Republican attempt to infringe on the rights of working people and sent a strong signal to the House Republican leadership to get serious about addressing the jobs crisis in America.

In a landslide victory for the rights of working people, Ohio voters overwhelmingly repealed S.B. 5, a measure passed by the Republican-controlled state legislature in March. S.B. 5 would have severely limited the ability of public employees to collectively bargain by, among other things, revoking their ability of to strike. Tuesday's vote is but the latest rejection of Republican efforts to protect the top one percent at the expense of the bottom 99 percent.

Ohio voters spoke loudly on behalf of everyday Americans across the country and strong opposition to Republican efforts to balance the budget on the backs of working people. Firefighters, police officers, teachers and other public employees did not cause the financial meltdown or the recession. They do, however, serve and enrich our communities every day by educating our kids, protecting our homes, our businesses and our people. Republican attempts to limit the collective bargaining rights of public employees—including their right to strike—represent how out of touch their agenda is with the American people.

Over the past year, the House Republican leadership has repeatedly attempted to roll back the hard won gains of working people. I have consistently opposed these efforts and will continue to do so. Working people, including public sector employees, are the backbone of society. They deserve a decent wage, access to quality healthcare and the peace of mind that they will have a stable pension benefit as they head into retirement.

In contrast, the American people are embracing President Obama's American Jobs Act, which is supported by wide margins. The American Jobs Act provides relief to state governments facing budgetary shortfalls. The President's plan, which I strongly support, would prevent layoffs and encourage hiring of teachers, firefighters, and police officers by investing \$35 billion into state and local governments. That is why it is imperative that house Republican leadership bring the President's jobs bill to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of being unfairly punished for an economic recession caused by he irresponsible and reckless conduct of some of those on Wall Street. I call upon the House Republican leadership to abandon efforts to protect Wall Street at all costs by punishing Main Street at every turn. It is time for the House leadership to compromise with Democrats and President Obama and adopt policies that will put people back to work and help our economy grow.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT—NICHOLAS KIRIAZES

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Nicholas Kiriazes for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Nicholas has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby he is truly deserving of this honor not only because of his dedication to the Boy Scouts of America, but also due to his commitment to the United States Marine Corps.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

RECOGNIZING BERNARD EPSTEIN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a constituent, Bernard Epstein, for a lifetime dedicated to serving his community and his country.

Bernie's service began when he attended Columbia University on a Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship; adding military training to his demanding workload as a Chemistry major. Each summer during his time at Columbia, Bernie participated in a summer cruise with the Navy as a midshipman, learning valuable military and leadership skills in preparation for active duty service.

Upon his graduation with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Chemistry, Bernie was commissioned as a lieutenant in the United States Navy. He saw action in the Korean War with the Navy's 7th Fleet, whose units served in every major operation of that conflict.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Bernie continued his education at Columbia, eventually earning a Master's Degree in Engineering. Equipped with advanced skills and military experience, Bernie returned to service in the Defense Department as a civilian, developing ballistic missile programs with a special focus on inertial navigation. The early defense research and development programs Bernie participated in were the genesis of America's Space Program, and laid the foundation for manned space flight and countless scientific breakthroughs.

In 1996, after a long career with the Department of Defense, Bernie and his wife Naomi

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

retired to East Hampton, where they have become deeply involved with the Jewish Center of the Hamptons. For over a decade, Bernie has volunteered as the Baal Koreh, or Master of Reading, the officiant who reads the Torah from scroll in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Bernie Epstein for his invaluable and continuing contributions to our community. It is my great hope that he will serve as an inspiration for other through his good works and devotion to his country.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Kelley House on the Mendocino Coast in Northern California. Located in the picturesque village of Mendocino, the Kelley House was originally a private home. Since 1972 the Kelley House has been a museum and quality research facility which collects, protects, preserves, and shares the rich history of the coastal community through its museum and quality research facility.

William Henry Kelley first came to Mendocino in 1852 to work for the California Lumber Manufacturing Company. After working his way up in rank, he returned to his birthplace of Prince Edward Island, Canada, married Eliza Lee Owen, and returned to Mendocino with his new bride in 1855. William built the Kelley House in 1861 on an acre of beautifully landscaped, ocean view property in downtown Mendocino. The gardens include a pond and two resident geese. William had the pond built and stocked so that the neighborhood children could fish.

Through its staffed research office, the museum has preserved over three thousand entries of maps, documents, books, photographs, oral histories, and artifacts representing more than 150 years of history along the Mendocino Coast.

Through the combined efforts of a dedicated board of directors and staff, volunteers, local sponsors and generous donations from community members, the Kelley House Museum continues to serve its community with annual events and accessible historic information.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Kelley House, a fixture of downtown Mendocino, for its invaluable service and historic importance to the community.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL H. LLOYD WILKERSON, USMC RET. TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General H. Lloyd Wilkerson, USMC ret. for a life dedicated to serving his

country and helping others in Western North Carolina.

H. Lloyd Wilkerson was born in Troy, Tennessee, on October 31, 1919. After graduating from Erskine College in 1941 with degrees in mathematics and english, he was an inspector for Retail Credit Company in Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina.

At the outbreak of World War II, Wilkerson enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He quickly advanced through the ranks, serving as Platoon Sergeant and then Second Lieutenant. He served in combat in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He became Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Base in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In 1972, he was promoted to Brigadier General and became Commanding General of that Base. Subsequently, as a Major General, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Studies at the Headquarters of the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, Commanding General of the Third Marine Division, and Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force in the Far East. His final assignment, prior to his retirement on May 31, 1978, was as Director of Personnel Management Division/Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower at Headquarters of the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

Since his retirement, Major General Wilkerson has been involved in countless volunteer and appointed positions in his church, alma mater, and community. He served as President of the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation, Inc. which annually provided more than \$200,000 to support clinics for childhood language disorders at East Carolina University, Appalachian State University, and the Scottish Rite Temple at Charlotte.

Wilkerson has gone above and beyond to serve our country through military service and countless volunteer programs. It is an honor to represent selfless, hardworking soldiers like Major General Wilkerson whose devotion to our country is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Major General H. Lloyd Wilkerson.

COMMENDING DEFEAT OF INITIATIVE 26 BY MISSISSIPPI VOTERS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the voters of Mississippi who went to the polls on Tuesday, November 7, and decisively rejected Initiative 26, the so-called "Personhood Amendment" to the state's constitution. By a margin of 41 to 58 percent, the voters of Mississippi turned back a thinly veiled attempt to deprive women of their constitutionally protected freedom to make their own reproductive health decisions.

No matter what your position is in the pro-choice/pro-life debate, the reach of Initiative 26 was so broad and its provisions so extreme that thousands of the most sincere, thoughtful, and committed pro-life activists could not in good conscience support the measure.

Initiative 26, which was the brainchild of the anti-choice group Personhood USA, sought to redefine the legal definition of a "person" to

include "every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the functional equivalent thereof." If the measure had passed and gone into effect, it would have outlawed abortion in all circumstances, even when the life of the mother was in imminent danger. And it would have put an end to stem-cell research, banned several of the most common forms of birth control, and restricted fertility treatments such as in-vitro fertilization.

Since the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, anti-choice activists have been relentless in their efforts to overturn that decision or find new ways to impede women from exercising their right to choose. "Personhood" initiatives are merely the latest scheme designed to turn back the clock on women's reproductive health rights. Proponents sought to road test their "personhood amendment" strategy in the very conservative and pro-life state of Mississippi before taking it national.

Mr. Speaker, Initiative 26 was worded so broadly that even its backers freely admitted that it would ban some of the most common methods of birth control like IUDs and the birth-control and "morning after" pill. But the reach of Initiative 26 goes further than shutting down clinics, much further. This personhood initiative takes it too far by effectively criminalizing abortion without exceptions for rape, incest or health and life of the mother.

Mr. Speaker, what was especially pernicious about Initiative 26 is that it would have outlawed the generally accepted medical practices used by health care professionals in situations where the life or health of the mother is imperiled. Saving a woman's life should be the first priority. If Initiative 26 were to become law, however, saving the life or preserving the health of the mother, by aborting the pregnancy if necessary, would be regarded as a criminal act.

It should be noted also, Mr. Speaker, that Initiative 26 is so far reaching that it would discourage the practice of in vitro fertilization, if not ban it altogether. Through the years, in vitro fertilization has enabled millions of childless couples to experience the miracle of become loving parents to wanted children. It makes no sense for persons who profess a preference for life and family values to champion a measure like Initiative 26 which would outlaw in vitro fertilization.

Symbolic "personhood" amendments cause unnecessary political rancor and division. They are distractions we can ill afford. We should instead be focusing our efforts on the real problem facing our nation and that is creating jobs and revitalizing our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in opposition to dangerous and diversionary personhood initiatives like Initiative 26. I congratulate the citizens of Mississippi for resoundingly rejecting Initiative 26.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL CURTIS J. IRWIN

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brigadier General Curtis J.

Irwin, who, at the age of 88, passed away peacefully at his home in North Syracuse, New York on Wednesday, October 5th, 2011.

Brigadier General Irwin was born in Syracuse on November 4th, 1922, to the late Joseph A. and Violet M. Irwin. He was preceded in death by his wife, Natalie J. Irwin "Noble Nanny" and his sister, Marilyn J. Irwin Boison.

A combat veteran of WWII, he served as commander of the 174th Fighter Wing, (formally the 174th Fighter Group) New York Air National Guard at Hancock Field from January 1st, 1958 until March 13th, 1977. He retired from the New York Air National Guard on August 31st, 1978.

General Irwin's flying career spanned more than 35 years, beginning when he was still attending North Syracuse High School. Working weekends at the old Amboy Airport, he received compensation for his labor in flight instruction.

He began his military service in August of 1942 and entered pilot training the following March. After winning his wings and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in May of 1944, he served in the Pacific Theatre of Operations as a fighter pilot flying the P-47 Thunderbolt.

Campaigns in which he participated include the China Offensive, Western Pacific, and the Air Offensive of Japan and the Ryukyus Islands. He was decorated with the Air Medal, the Oak Leaf Cluster, and four battle stars for his wartime service.

Following World War II, General Irwin was an original member and assisted in the organization of the Air National Guard in Syracuse. While commander of the 174th Fighter Wing, General Irwin saw the unit undergo many aircraft conversions and unit changes. It was the first unit to operate jet aircraft in New York State and in 1951, was selected as one of the two units in the country to test a secret program of runway alert to augment the Air Force. The results were so successful that this program is to this day a vital part of the United States' air defense.

In 1960, the 174th was recognized by the National Guard Bureau as the most combat-ready F-86 unit in the country. During the Berlin Crisis in 1961, the 174th was activated and within 30 days, all personnel, planes, and equipment were deployed to Phalsbourg Air Base in France. This was the largest movement of jet fighter aircraft in Europe since World War II. General Irwin led his unit's planes and crews across the northern Atlantic route via Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, and on to the mainland of Europe. Despite many dramatic moments, all arrived safely on the continent. The unit was again called up during the Pueblo Crisis and was deployed to Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico.

In addition to his military service, General Irwin was instrumental in linking the 174th Fighter Wing with the local community. He organized a program of community education for planning and zoning actions compatible with aviation growth.

Honors bestowed upon General Irwin are many. General Irwin was awarded the Governor's Trophy in 1960, 1973, and 1976. In addition, he received the first Department of Defense Award for Domestic Action in 1971. Thompson Road through Hancock Air Base now bears his name and is called the "General Curtis Irwin Parkway". In our local com-

munity, General Irwin was named to the North Syracuse School District Wall of Distinction in 1990.

Surviving General Irwin are his children, Laurinda "Laurie" A. Irwin of Cottage Grove, Minnesota; Sheila M. (Lester) Austin of Lafayette, New York; Lisette "Lisa" Damon of North Syracuse; several nieces and nephews; his longtime companion Betty Tryon of Liverpool; and his 174th Fighter Wing Family.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York and a grateful Nation, I thank General Irwin for his service.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ANNA MARIA CHÁVEZ

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anna Maria Chávez and to congratulate her on her appointment as the 19th Chief Executive of Girl Scouts of the USA. Ms. Chávez officially assumes her new role at the Girl Scouts National Council Session/52nd Convention being held this week in Houston, Texas.

I am particularly proud that Ms. Chávez joins GSUSA following an incredibly successful term as Chief Executive of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas in my home district in San Antonio, Texas. During her tenure, Ms. Chávez oversaw a 20 percent increase in membership in just two years. Quickly recognized for her leadership, Ms. Chávez received the inaugural ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award in 2010 and was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in March 2011.

As the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I also take great pride in the fact that Ms. Chávez is the first Latina woman to be named the head of Girl Scouts. Her story began in the small town of Eloy, Arizona, where she was raised in a Mexican-American family.

Ms. Chávez holds a law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a bachelor's degree in American history from Yale University. Bar admissions include the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Arizona Supreme Court, and U.S. Supreme Court. Her professional accomplishments are many. Prior to coming to Girl Scouts, she served as deputy chief of staff for urban relations and community development for former Arizona Governor and current U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano. Prior to being appointed as deputy chief of staff, Ms. Chávez served as then Governor Napolitano's director of intergovernmental affairs from 2003 to 2007. She also served as in-house counsel and assistant director for the Division of Aging & Community Services (DACs) at the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Ms. Chávez entered state government after serving as senior policy advisor to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater. Previously, she had been chief of staff to the deputy administrator at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in Washington, D.C. Ms. Chávez also served as chief of staff for SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Minority Enterprise Development.

As she takes the helm at Girl Scouts of the USA, Ms. Chávez will shepherd a dramatic period of change for the organization. This week, Girl Scouts will kick off its 100th Anniversary celebration, designating 2012 as the Year of the Girl. In the coming years, Girl Scouts has plans to promote its award winning Girl Scout Leadership Program, including the exciting new badge book, The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts is also preparing to launch an ambitious new fundraising effort tied to these activities, and to elevate public awareness about girls' unique needs.

As relevant today as it was when it was founded 100 years ago, this organization delivers the best leadership experience for a new generation of girls whose lives—and the opportunities they face—are ever changing. I am confident that Anna Maria Chávez will continue this strong legacy of leadership and service, and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT—STEPHEN MICHAEL TIMMES

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Stephen Michael Timmes for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Stephen has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATING THORSEN'S PLUMBING & AIR CONDITIONING ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Thorsen's Plumbing & Air Conditioning Inc. on their 100th Anniversary. This dedicated business continues to bring economic vitality to the region.

On November 11, 1911, Andy Thorsen Sr. started his plumbing business as a one man shop in a shed attached to his first home on 567 High Street in Turlock, California. November 17, 1911, he obtained a city license in the name of "Thorsen's Plumbing" and began working out of his house at 567 High Street. Andy would ride his bicycle to jobs, carrying 200 pound bundles of 20 foot pipe on his shoulder. In 1916, Andy relocated to 214 Lander Avenue with the sign "Andy Thorsen, The Plumber". Andy was the first business person in Turlock to use a horseless carriage for his business, a Model T Ford with special tires for the rough and muddy roads.

In the early days, his work mainly consisted of simple plumbing with water storage tanks and wind driven pumps. Between 1918–1927, business continued to grow as the demand for modern indoor plumbing increased. In 1933, Andy Thorsen the Plumber moved to 134 Lander Avenue to a larger facility.

As post war construction boomed across the nation, Thorsen's grew with the continued increase in new homes and business construction. Eventually, Andy expanded his business to include plumbing, heating, sheet metal, storage tanks, pumps, motors, windmills, hardware and paint.

During the 1950's, air conditioning became popular in the central valley providing comfort and quality to homes. Thorsen's responded by expanding their services to include central air conditioning and heating.

Thorsen's saw its greatest expansion during the 1960's and 1970's. Andy Thorsen's two sons, Rodney and Andy Jr., were both involved as partners in the business until 1965 when Rodney took over as president became sole owner of "Thorsen's Plumbing & Air Conditioning Inc." The name change reflected the growing importance of air conditioning.

In 1977, Rodney Thorsen completed the purchase of 20 acres of land and built a 19,500 sq. ft. building on North Walnut, employing 80–100 people and expanded to include commercial, residential and service for plumbing and HVAC throughout the Merced and Stanislaus counties. Rodney managed the company for the next 20 years and in 1984, his youngest son Norman graduated from college and returned to Turlock to take over the reins of the company. In 1988, Norman was involved in a serious automobile accident which forced Rodney to take over managing the company again.

Over the next 14 years, Norman was able to help Rodney manage the company on a limited basis. Through the skill and devotion of key long-term employees in the office and the field, Thorsen's Inc. was able to remain competitive.

In 2002, Craig Pitau was asked to join Thorsen's as the General Manager and was given the opportunity to purchase ownership in the company. Craig worked with Norman managing Thorsen's until Norman's untimely passing in 2004. In 2005, Rodney also passed away. Today, the company is owned by Carl Thorsen, Don Thorsen, Judy Thorsen Enchelmayer and Craig Pitau.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Thorsen's Plumbing & Air Conditioning Inc. for their 100 years of operation.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65 million Americans who spend on average 20 hours per week selflessly caring for family members or friends who, through age, disability, or illness, have lost the ability to care for themselves.

For most of us, the act of caring for those in need is a basic aspect of what it means to be human. Compassion, either through charitable giving or community service, is inseparable from American ideals of human rights for every member of our society. Whenever we treat those around us as we want to be treated, we contribute to a culture of responsibility and respect for life that leads us to do great things in the name of humanity.

Last week, President Barack Obama proclaimed November 2011 as National Family Caregivers Month. Anyone who spends time caring for a loved one in need is considered a family caregiver. Let us use this occasion to honor these everyday heroes and raise awareness of the profound contributions they make to society.

Family caregivers save taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars each year through their efforts.

According to studies compiled by the National Family Caregivers Association, the value of the unpaid services provided each year is estimated to be \$375 billion, which is almost twice as much as the \$158 billion spent in 2009 on homecare and nursing home services combined.

In my home state of California alone there were 3,419,481 family caregivers in 2004 providing over \$36 billion worth of care. Though they are mostly untrained, family caregivers now provide about 80% of all long-term care in the United States.

Imagine if taxpayers had to foot the full bill. Now, more than ever, family caregivers are essential to providing the best services and deserve the support of government and the medical community.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the US Census projects a massive growth in the number of Americans 65 and older as the baby-boomer generation ages. Populations in this age bracket will double in 23 states by 2030.

As medical progress means longer lives, families struggle to provide long-term family care than they did in past decades. Families are smaller and more spread out, and many family caregivers must juggle work and raising children in addition to their caregiving respon-

sibilities. Family caregivers may need to operate complex medical equipment or practice delicate procedures without any formal training.

The "graying of America" will have a tremendous impact on families providing care for their older members.

Many public health officials are concerned that we may not be ready to assume the roles of family caregivers. Studies suggest that many Americans have not spent much time thinking about or preparing for long-term care. People who have no experience as a family caregiver may have extreme difficulty in approaching such a responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that most of us will find ourselves in a similar situation, either giving or requiring long term care at various points in our lives.

Family caregivers often put themselves second as they balance competing commitments to their jobs, families, and communities. Tragically, more than 1 in 10 family caregivers report that their physical health has deteriorated as a result of extreme stress.

Family caregivers experiencing extreme stress have been shown to age prematurely. This level of stress can take as much as 10 years off a family caregiver's life.

Mr. Speaker, 40 to 70 percent of family caregivers have clinically significant symptoms of depression with approximately a quarter to half of these caregivers meet the diagnostic criteria for major depression.

We must also remember that many disabled veterans are supported by family caregivers. Having given so much for their country, I believe that they and their family members should not have to struggle to live out a full, dignified life.

Therefore, we should do everything possible to support family caregivers and lighten their burdens.

It begins with encouraging people to take adequate steps to prepare for their future care. This means setting aside funds to cover unforeseen medical expenses, signing a living will, and making preparations with family and friends. Health professionals must be sensitive to the needs of family caregivers and enlist them in formulating a patient's long-term care plan.

We also need to make sure that family caregivers have access to information and resources that can help them meet their responsibilities with minimal strain and unnecessary cost.

Finally, we must ensure that the concerns of family caregivers are reflected in all major healthcare legislation.

We are all family caregivers, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to work together to support human dignity and the American family.